



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Eastern District of California*

501 I Street, Suite 10-100  
Sacramento, California 95814

916/554-2700  
Fax 916/554-2900

For Immediate Release  
August 28, 2001

**TWO MEN INDICTED FOR GROWING MARIJUANA IN TEHAMA COUNTY**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney John K. Vincent announced today that a federal grand jury here has charged two men with violations involving marijuana trafficking in Tehama County.

Abraham Chavez-Mendoza, 20, and Romolo Ochoa-Torres, 26, were indicted by a grand jury today. The indictment charges that these two men were involved in a conspiracy to grow at least 1,000 marijuana plants. The indictment also charges both men with being involved in the actual growing of at least 1,000 marijuana plants. Finally, both men are charged with carrying a firearm during and in relation to the marijuana trafficking crimes.

According to documents filed with the court, a large marijuana garden was discovered in the Battle Creek area in north Tehama County. On August 15, 2001, agents reentered this garden, where they estimated that approximately 5,500 marijuana plants were growing. They also discovered Chavez-Mendoza and Ochoa-Torres apparently tending to this garden. After they were arrested, each man was found to be in possession of a loaded handgun.

Chavez-Mendoza and Ochoa-Torres each face a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, and a fine of up to \$1 million, for the marijuana charges. They both also face a mandatory additional penalty of at least 5 years in prison for carrying a firearm during the marijuana trafficking activity.

Vincent pointed out that an indictment charging a defendant with a crime is only an accusation, and that a defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

This case was investigated by the United States Bureau of Land Management, and the Tehama County Sheriff's Department.

###